



LUTHERAN PORT ELIZABETH

Friedenskirche

www.lutheran-pe.org

No. 2012. June /July 2012 Lutheran Church Springfield Port Elizabeth - Newsletter



Christus und Seine Kirche laden dich ein! Christ and His Church invite you !

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Planned

Music Evening

Saturday 16 June 2012 @ 19H30

Work Day – Church Centre

Saturday 14 July 2012 @ 09H00

Burger Beer & Bingo

Saturday 27 July 2012 @ 19H00

Movie Evening

Friday 24 August 2012 @ 18H30

Work Day – Manse

8 September 2012 @ 09H00

Spring Dance

Saturday 29 September @ 19H00

Pancake Stall—Oktoberfest

Sunday 28 October

Bazaar

Saturday 3 November 2012 @ 09H30

Work Day – Church Centre

Saturday 10 November 2012 @ 09H00

Carols

Saturday 15 December 2012 @ 15H00

Regular

Weekly Home Church

19:30

German: Tuesday evenings
English: Wednesday evenings

Monthly Open Door

10:00

Coffee Morning
Last Wednesday of the month

Monthly Home Church

18:00 Uitenhage

Hagen und Edelgard Krieg
Cell : 082 537 0265
9 Wistaria Street
Fairbridge Heights

ADVERTISING SPACE

We are going to make space available in the newsletter for advertising.

If you would like to advertise your crafts, house sitting, holiday home for rent etc. please contact Anthea. (contact details on the back page)

The costs will be R100 to advertise for 1 year (January to December—6 editions).

Watchword for 2012

My power is made perfect
in weakness

2 Corinthians 12,9

Jahreslosung 2012

Meine Kraft ist in
den Schwachen mächtig

2. Korinther 12,9

Gebetskreis



Prayer Group

Contact person:

Christel Schädler

083 590 4698

Please contact Christel with your prayer needs

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Congregation, dear Friends!

We have arrived at the time of Pentecost – the festival celebrating the Pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ - the time in which the church is empowered to move into the world with the Gospel. What a powerful movement it was. Think back to that first little band of brothers and sisters of Jesus: that little fearful huddle of ordinary people, fishermen, housewives, tax collectors and other rather dubious members from the bottom and edge of their society. How did they manage to take the Gospel into the then known world within the space of 50 years? It was not their know-how, their wonderfully charismatic personalities, their strategic planning abilities or their highly effective vision that made it happen – it was the Power from on high, given to them not only once on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem, but time and again, when God through the Word of the Gospel changed them, renewed them, re-birthed them into new beings, beings who were no longer bound to their past, beings who were now servants (Paul even speaks of “slaves”) of Christ, doing one thing and one thing only: Proclaiming that in Christ the Crucified sinners, godless and completely lost sinners are reconciled to God and made completely new through the simple means of WORD and SACRAMENT i.e. through preaching the scandalous Gospel message of Grace for unworthy sinners and through baptising these sinners into the Name of the triune God and through feeding them with the Life of Christ.

Pentecost, the Power of the Holy Spirit, does not add a third dimension to Word and Sacrament, as some Pentecostals try to make us believe, it is the power of Word and Sacrament in action! The Spirit could perhaps be described as the fuel which drives the movement of Word and Sacrament into the world – God is on a mission – that mission is to save all lost sinners by the Grace wrought on the cross by His Son Jesus Christ. How does God fulfil this mission? He does it by grabbing hold of ordinary people like you and me and getting them to go into the world with nothing but a strange word of Justification by Grace, through faith in Christ and two also rather strange actions: A Bath and a Meal! The Bath “cleans up” the sinner by drowning the old, sinful human in him/her and raising up a completely new being, holy and just before God. The Meal gets the sinner to join in at the table of the Lord as a member of the Family of God, feeding him/her with the Life of Christ. There we have it, where these things happen, the Spirit is at work! And where these things don't happen, even if there is a whole lot of other activity, even much “spiritual” activity, there is neither Church nor Spirit of God to be found.

I wish you all a blessed season of Pentecost.
Felix Meylahn

Was dem Pastor am Herzen liegt

Was dem Pastor auf dem Herzen liegt!

Wir sind in der Pfingstzeit des Kirchenjahres angekommen – das Fest der Ausgießung des Heiligen Geistes auf die Jünger Jesu. – der Zeit also, in der die Kirche ermächtigt wurde, in die Welt hinaus zu gehen mit der Botschaft des Evangeliums. Was für eine mächtige Bewegung war das? Denkt einmal zurück an die kleine, ängstliche Schar der ersten Jünger – Fischerleute, Hausfrauen, Zöllner und andere, etwas zweifelhafte Gestalten der damaligen Gesellschaft. Wie haben diese Menschen es geschafft, innerhalb von 50 Jahren das Evangelium bis an die Enden der damals bekannten Welt zu bringen? Es war nicht ihr „Know-how“, es lag nicht an ihren charismatischen Persönlichkeiten, und auch nicht an ihren strategischen Plänen oder höchst effektiven Visionen – sondern die Macht, die ihnen von oben gegeben wurde, nicht nur das eine Mal an Pfingsten sondern immer wieder, wenn Gott durch das Wort des Evangeliums sie veränderte, sie neu machte, die wieder-gebar als neue Kreaturen, als Wesen, die nun nicht mehr gebunden waren an ihre Vergangenheit, sondern die jetzt Diener (Paulus sagt sogar „Sklaven“) Christi waren. Und diese Sklaven taten nur eines: Sie verkündeten, dass in dem gekreuzigten Christus Sünder, gottlose und total verlorene Menschen, versöhnt sind mit Gott und ganz neu gemacht werden durch die einfachen Mittel von WORT und SAKRAMENT, das heißt durch die Verkündigung des skandalösen Evangeliums von der Gnade für unwürdige Sünder und durch das Taufen dieser Sünder in den Namen des drei-einigen Gottes hinein und durch das Speisen dieser Sünder mit dem Leben Christi.

Pfingsten, die Macht des Heiligen Geistes, fügt nicht noch eine dritte Dimension zu Wort und Sakrament, wie es uns manche Pfingstler weiß machen wollen, es ist die Macht, die Bewegung von Wort und Sakrament in der Welt. Der Geist ist sozusagen der Treibstoff, der die Bewegung von Wort und Sakrament in der Welt im Gange hält. Gott hat eine Mission – und diese Mission ist, dass Gott alle verlorenen Sünder retten will durch die Gnade, die Jesus am Kreuz errungen hat. Wie erfüllt Gott diese Mission? Er tut es, indem er sich einige ganz normale Menschen schnappt, Menschen wie wir, und sie in die Welt hinausschickt mit nichts anderem als diesem fremden Wort der Rechtfertigung durch Gnade allein und mit zwei ebenso fremden Aktionen: einem Bad und einer Mahlzeit. Das Bad reinigt den Sünder, indem es den alten Menschen in ihm ersäuft und einen neuen Menschen erstehen lässt, der heilig, gerecht und gut ist vor Gott. Das Mahl bringt den Sünder dazu, am Tisch des Herrn mitzufeiern als Mitglied der Familie Gottes, er/sie wird gespeist mit dem Leben Christi. Da haben wir es, wo diese Dinge passieren, da ist der Heilige Geist am Werk! Da ist Pfingsten! Wo diese Dinge nicht passieren, da mag zwar ganz viel „Action“ sein, auch geistige, spirituelle Bewegung, aber da ist weder Kirche noch Heiliger Geist zu finden!

Ich wünsche Ihnen/Euch eine gesegnete Pfingstzeit!

Felix Meylahn

Losung für Juni 2012

Watchword for June 2012

„Durch Gottes Gnade bin ich,
was ich bin.“
1.Korinther 15,10

"But by the grace of God
I am what I am."
1 Corinthians 15,10

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| <p>03.06.2012</p>  | <p>Trinitatis</p> | <p>Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30</p> | <p>Epheser 1, 3–14</p> |
| <p>10.06.2012</p>  | <p>First Sunday after Trinity</p> | <p>Divine Service (Reading) 09:30</p> | <p>Jeremiah 23. 16–29</p> |
| <p>17.06.2012</p>   | <p>Second Sunday after Trinity</p> <p>2. Sonntag nach Trinitatis</p> | <p>Divine Service 09:00</p> <p>10:15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl</p> | <p>1 Corinth 14. 1-3. 20-25</p> <p>1. Korinther 14, 1–3. 20–25</p> |
| <p>24.06.2012</p>  | <p>Third Sunday after Trinity</p> | <p>Family Service Holy Communion 09:30</p> | <p>1 John 1.5–2,6</p> |
| | | | |

Losung für Juli 2012

„Mit welchem Maß ihr messt,
wird man euch wieder messen.“

Markus 4,24

Watchword for July 2012

“The measure you give
will be the measure you get.”

Mark 4,24

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| 01.07. 2012  | 4. Sonntag nach Trinitatis | Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl 09:30 | 1. Petrus 3, 8–15a (15b–17) |
| 08.07.2012  | 5th Sunday after Trinity | Divine Service Reading 09:30 | Genesis 12.1–4 |
| 15.07.2012   | 6th Sunday after Trinity 6. Sonntag nach Trinitatis | Divine Service Reading 09:00 10.15 Gottesdienst mit Abendmahl | The Acts 8. 26-39 Apostelgeschichte 8, 26–39 |
| 22.07.2012  | 7th Sunday after Trinity | Divine Service Holy Communion 09:30 | Philippians 2.1–4 |
| 29.07.2012  | 8th Sunday after Trinity | Family Service Holy Communion 09:30 | 1 Corinthians 6. 9–14.18–20 |

Word of Greeting from Synod of UELCSA

The 10th General Synod of UELCSA convened on 4-6th May in the Strand Street Lutheran Church of Cape Town. Even though the official theme of synod was “Faith and Church in a Globalized World” the underlying current of all of synod’s deliberations heavily focussed on matters of theological education and spiritual formation. In his opening sermon Bishop Rohwer focussed on the need and indeed necessity for a “priesthood” that involved all baptized Christians and Dr. Noko, the previous general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, gave both the keynote address and reporting on a concerted drive by the Lutheran Communion of Churches in Southern Africa to develop a “Lutheran university”. This should be value-based education, that would entail utilizing existing schools, seminaries and buildings to create accredited and respectable hubs of tertiary learning.

Dr. Tönsing, the principal of the Lutheran Theological Institute in Pietermaritzburg, who had proffered to delegates in advance a detailed report, highlighted some of the needs, frustrations, but also hopes and expectations with regard to the theological training and formation of young people in Pietermaritzburg. His greatest concern was shared by all the delegates of synod: The lack of UELCSA students in Pietermaritzburg.

One session of synod was dedicated to the report by UELCSA’s church-council as compiled and presented by the chairman, Bishop Rohwer. He too put his emphasis on theological education, reflecting on the history, the real challenges, but also the distinct focus of all theological education: “Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the ‘core business’ of the Church. Everything else, as important as it may be, serves this one purpose.”

As part of its regular business, Synod accepted reports on finances and the retirement fund, it adopted the budget for the year to come and elected new office bearers:

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| Chairman of the church-council: | Bishop H.Müller |
| Deputy Chairman of church-council: | Bishop E.Hertel |
| President of synod: | Mr. W.Fechter |
| Treasurer: | Mr. H.Schöttler |
| Additional member: | Bishop N.Rohwer |

It accepted with gratitude words of greeting from various people and institutions. The delegates of synod also spent some time to reflect on the history of the institution UELCSA and on its way forward. It became clear that due to the size of its member-churches it was prudent to use the forum of UELCSA to deliberate on matters of theological training, in-service training of pastors, liturgical matters, assessing and placing of people starting with full-time ministry in the church, fraternal visits and participation at each other’s synods and general pastoral convocations.

The Swan as a Symbol for Martin Luther

The swan is a popular symbol of Martin Luther and is frequently found in Lutheran art. The history (or perhaps legend) behind it is quite interesting. Here is a brief summary:

The Goose John Huss (1370-1415), whose name literally means "Goose" in the Bohemian language, was an important religious figure whose teachings strongly influenced Martin Luther and the Reformation. He was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415. So what does this have to do with Luther and a swan? The following is recorded by a priest observing Huss' execution. Just prior to being burned at the stake, Huss was asked to recant his teachings. His response: "**You are now going to burn a goose, but in a century you will have a swan which you can neither roast nor boil.**" Almost exactly 100 years later, on October 31, 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg.

The Dream The evening before October 31, 1517, the Elector Frederick of Saxony had a dream which was recorded by his brother, Duke John. The dream, in short, is about a monk who wrote on the church door of Wittenberg with a pen so large that it reached to Rome. The more those in authority tried to break the pen, the stronger it became. When asked how the pen got so strong, the monk replied "The pen belonged to an old goose of Bohemia, a hundred years old." The Elector was unsure exactly what the dream meant, but believed he had an interpretation which he thought may be accurate. The very morning he shared his dream, Martin Luther was posting his theses.

The Swan Martin Luther himself, who clearly would be familiar with the history of John Huss, referred to himself as the swan of which John Huss prophesied. In fact, Luther's fulfilling of John Huss' prophesy is even mentioned in the sermon at Luther's funeral in 1546. After the death of Luther, the great Reformer was frequently portrayed with a swan in Lutheran art (see front page, 1730, Jubilee Edition Augsburg Confession).

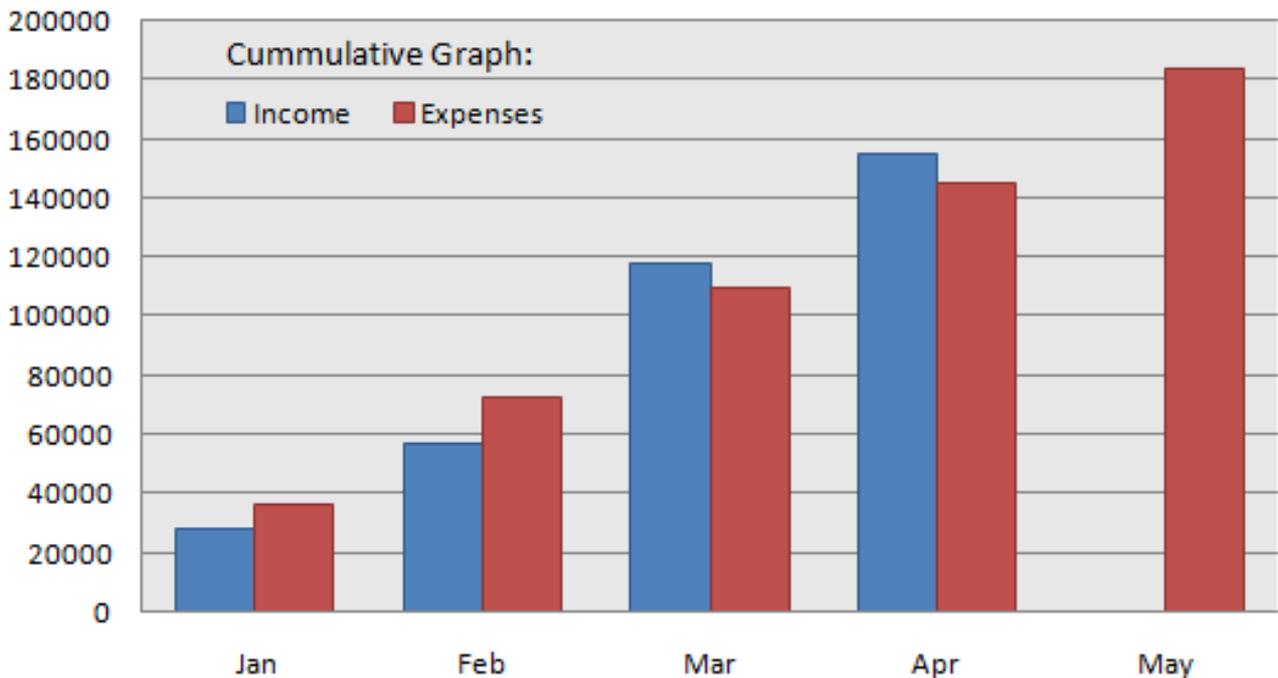
In the Church of our sister congregation in Strand Street, Cape Town, there is a large pulpit, carved by Anton Anreith, which has a swan at the top. The church and its pulpit were built/carved at a time, when Lutherans were not allowed to freely worship as Lutherans at the Cape. The inside of the church also had to look like a "Reformed" church, with the pulpit in the centre of the front, where usually, in Lutheran churches we find the Table of the Lord. In a kind of quiet defiance of this ruling, the swan was placed atop of the pulpit, signifying that it was a Lutheran church after all.

June 2012

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| 02-Jun | Werner Krieg |
| 05-Jun | Karla Lentz |
| 06-Jun | Till Heitmann |
| 07 Jun | Elizabeth Koepke |
| 10-Jun | Ingrid Haschick |
| 13-Jun | Sheldine Septoe |
| 18-Jun | Dieter Horni |
| 18-Jun | Jordan Mächtle |
| 19-Jun | Gerrit Gädke |
| 21-Jun | Isa Kerstin Brand |
| 21-Jun | Janine Wright |
| 21-Jun | Lynn Cairncross |
| 30-Jun | Otto Alfred Bülbring |

July 2012

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| 06-Jul | Christel Schädler |
| 08-Jul | Mia Meylahn |
| 10-Jul | Phil Gareth van Rensburg |
| 16-Jul | Hans Schaberg |
| 18-Jul | Dorle Kussing |
| 18-Jul | Elisabeth Wagner |
| 20-Jul | Bernd Mächtle |
| 29-Jul | Doreen Stocklose |
| 31-Jul | Lionel Sonnenberger |



Due to numerous generous donations and our fundraising events, our congregation's financial position has strengthened and shows a surplus of R10 000 as at the end of April.

The year-on-year cumulative comparatives as at the end of April show:

- * an increase in income of 44%
- * an increase in expenses of 5%"

We would like to remind everybody wishing to receive statements to please request this via E-Mail at treasurer@lutheran-pe.org or from any of our wardens.

Payments

Contributions can be made either at the church, by means of a deposit into the church's bank account or via electronic fund transfer (EFT). Please do not forget to provide your details under the reference section.

Bank: First National Bank, Walmer Branch
Branch Code: 211217
Account Name: Lutheran Church Springfield

Church Committee 2012

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Rev Felix Meylahn | 33 Luke Avenue, P.O. Box 5039 pastor@lutheran-pe.org 041-367 1986 H | Springfield PE (Pfarrhaus/Manse) Walmer PE 6065 082 579 6381 |
| Geoff Andrews (Committee Chairman) | 45 Kent Road, chairman@lutheran-pe.org 041-484 1861 H 083 287 4199 | North End PE 6001 041-365 1835 W 041-364 1676 FAX |
| Gerhard Fröhlich (Treasurer) | 63 Boundary Rd, treasurer@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 3317 H | Morningside 6025 |
| Reinhard Walle (Membership Information) | 4 May Way membership@lutheran-pe.org 041-360 6769 H | Sunridge Park 6045 079 490 0104 |
| Anthea Burger | 31 Erasmus Drive, warden1@lutheran-pe.org 041-583 5423 H | Summerstrand 083 709 7868 |
| Henry Newman | 81 Villiers Road, warden2@lutheran-pe.org 041-581 3907 H | Walmer PE 6070 078 703 7003 |
| Lionel Sonnenberger | 18 Finch Street, warden4@lutheran-pe.org 041-365 6249 H | Cotswold 6045 082 770 9544 |
| Rainald Strauss | Erf 2500, Southern Hills Drive warden6@lutheran-pe.org 041-379 1934 H | Theescombe 6070 083 991 7012 |
| Gerry West | 17 Wykenham Crossing warden5@lutheran-pe.org 041-3641889 | Cape Road 082 894 1259 |

Records Update:



If you are aware of any discrepancies, e.g. inaccuracies in spelling of names, incorrect address details, tel. number, or even not receiving newsletters etc. please write down the corrected information and forward to Pastor Meylahn or one of the church wardens.